

ELA Across the Grades K-8

The Office of School Improvement in collaboration with educators from the field has developed an exciting new companion document to assist educators in their work with the Grade Level Content Expectations for English Language Arts (GLCE). The Across the Grades K-8 document provides a look at each GLCE in a matrix format across the grades. This “cross-grade” format allows grade levels to be easily compared with each other. You will find three separate matrices which include the strands of Reading, Writing, and Speaking, Listening, and Viewing. Within each grade band, the expectations have been aligned to show progression of a concept from one grade to the next.

The Grade Level Content Expectations

The Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) are based on the Michigan Curriculum Framework and its Teaching and Assessment Standards. They provide a set of clear and rigorous expectations for all students and provide teachers with clearly defined statements of what students should know and be able to do as they progress through school. The expectations represent a research-based approach to literacy development, promote writing as a process, and assure that students will become effective communicators.

Development of the Across the Grades K-8 Document

The Office of School Improvement is committed to creating the best possible product for educators. This commitment served as the impetus for the development of a companion document which includes revisions to the June 2004 edition. The Across the Grades K-8 document, released as v.12.05, refines and clarifies the original expectations, while preserving their essence and original intent. As education continues to evolve it is important to remember that each curriculum document will be considered as a work in progress, and will continue to be refined to improve the quality.

This document was developed by members of the original advisory and editing team, and reflects the feedback received from educators across the state during the past year. As a result of this revision process, the Across the Grade K-8 document provides Michigan's educators with a more teacher-friendly resource. The revision process greatly improved the continuity from one grade to the next and better ensured coherence both in content and pedagogy.

Types of Changes Made

- Parallel text across the grades
- Continuity in wording
- Clarity in the intent of the expectations
- Accuracy in concepts and language
- Proper flow of concepts and skills across the grades – no repetitions or gaps
- Addition of notes to explain the continuation of a concept across the grades in the reading strand
- Merging of like GLCE
- Recoding of some GLCE

As you examine each of the expectations in this document, you will find that the majority of content revisions are minor and recoding occurs primarily in kindergarten through third grade. The GLCE that have been recoded are identified with a code of **PC-Previously Coded or M-Merged 2 or more expectations.**

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Grade Level Assessments

The Office of Assessment and Accountability was involved in the development of this document and has incorporated the changes as they use it to develop test and item specifications for the K-8 Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) and MI-Access. We will use this version to assist in the development of companion documents, content examples, and to guide program planners in focusing resources and energy.

Our Goal

The Office of School Improvement encourages local and intermediate school districts to continue the stellar work they have begun over the past year supporting the implementation of the Grade Level Content Expectations. The resources that have been generated and shared throughout the state are a wonderful example of Michigan educators' commitment to help students attain the concepts and skills necessary to meet these expectations. Within the hands of teachers, the Grade Level Content Expectations are converted into exciting and engaging learning for Michigan's students. The art of teaching is what makes the content of learning become a reality. Through the collaborative efforts of Michigan educators and creation of professional learning communities, we can enable our young people to attain the highest standards, and thereby open doors for them to have fulfilling and successful lives.